

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 214172

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: EXCERPTS ON CHILE FROM NOON PRESS BRIEFING

FOLLOWING EXCERPTS FROM STATE DEPARTMENT NOON PRESS BRIEFING SEPTEMBER 27 RELATE TO SEYMOUR HERSH STORY IN NEW YORK TIMES OF SEPTEMBER 27:

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ARA CHASTIZED THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CHILE FOR RAISING THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT?

A: WELL, ON THIS REPORT, JUST LET ME SAY ONE THING. I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO, AGAIN, THE QUESTION OF DISCUSSING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION THAT MAY HAVE BECOME PUBLIC. BUT I DO WANT TO SAY THAT THE SECRETARY CONSIDERS IT A DISGRACE TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE WHEN MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE LEAK CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. NOW, WITHOUT REGARD TO THE SPECIFIC REPORT HERE, ON THE GENERAL QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE SECRETARY'S CONCERN, AS WE ALL KNOW, FOR HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS, IS VERY WELL ESTABLISHED. AND THAT IS ALL UNCLASSIFIED

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I HAVE TO SAY.

Q: THAT REPORT, OF COURSE, SAYS THAT THE SECRETARY REBUKED THE AMBASSADOR IN CHILE FOR HAVING RAISED THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH CHILEAN DEFENSE MINISTER. SO THAT ON ITS FACE WOULD APPEAR TO BE CONTRADICTING WHAT YOU JUST SAID.

A: I AM NOT GOING TO DISCUSS THE SUBSTANCE OF THE REPORT.

Q: BOB, YOU KNOW, YOU ARE KIND OF BEGGING THE QUESTION BY PUTTING OUT AN ATTACK ON THE ENTIRE FOREIGN SERVICE, OR WHOEVER LEAKED THIS MATERIAL, CALLING IT A DISGRACE. BUT THEN THE QUESTIONS HAVING TO DO WITH DID DAVID POPPER BRING UP THE MATTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE AID ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AND DID THE SECRETARY REBUKE HIM FOR IT?

A: I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE SPECIFICS OF THIS STORY, WHICH IS BASED ON AN ALLEGED CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION.

Q: ARE YOU DENYING THAT THE INFORMATION PRINTED IN THE STORY IS CORRECT?

A: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER TO SAY ON IT. WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLICATION HERE THAT THERE IS A LACK OF CONCERN POSSIBLY ON THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, I HAVE STATED WHAT THE SECRETARY'S VIEW IS THERE, AND THAT HIS CONCERN FOR QUESTIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS WELL ESTABLISHED.

Q: CAN YOUR STATEMENT BE TAKEN IN REGARD TO CHILE, BOB?

A: ANYWHERE THAT QUESTIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS COME UP, HE HAS SHOWN HIS CONCERN. I THINK WE ALL KNOW THAT.

Q: HAS HE RAISED THAT CONCERN WITH THE CHILEANS, IS THE NEXT QUESTION?

A: WE HAVE ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS DISCUSSED THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH THE CHILEAN AUTHORITIES. I AM JUST SAYING THIS AS A GENERAL STATEMENT. KISSINGER

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